THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is a fact that the overall average utilisation of train No. 2226 New Delhi-Azamgarh, Kaifiyat Express has been more than 100% during the period from January to June 2006.However, the occupancy in train No. 2225 Azamgarh-New Delhi Kaifiyat Express varied between 57% and 99% during the same period.

(b) and (c) The load of Kaifiyat Express is being augmented by one Sleeper coach from 31-07-2006.

Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Express

535. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties in not advancing one hour the time of departure of Shatabdi Express leaving Chandigarh for Delhi now at 6.15 P.M.;

(b) whether Government are aware that passengers have to pay extra dinner charges due to existing time table; and

(c) whether Railway Board is considering adding more seats in executive Class on both Shatabdi trains between Delhi-Chandigarh due to high demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present 2012 Kalka-New Delhi Shatabdi Express leave Kalka at 1730 hrs and leaves Chandigarh at 1820 hrs. This train provides a suitable service between Chandigarh and New Delhi, leaving Chandigarh after office hours. One hour early departure of this train ex-Chandigarh is not desirable at present as 4096 Himalayan Queen is already available at Chandigarh at 1728 hrs.

(b) Yes, Sir. As dinner is served on Shatabdi Express train, dinner charges form part of the consolidated ticket for Shatabdi Express and are recovered from the passengers travelling by Shatabdi express.

(c) The present accommodation in the both the Shatabdi train is satisfactorily catering to the existing travel demand.